

SPRING 2021



Blessings

School Sisters of Notre Dame Atlantic-Midwest Province



TRANSFORMING THE WORLD THROUGH EDUCATION

May leadership
be for us a true adventure
of growth."

—John O'Donahue

ON THE COVER: Sister Kathleen Feeley of Notre Dame of Maryland University during her mission time in Africa.

SMALLER PHOTO: Sisters on the Villa Assumpta bowling team, many of whom lost their lives to COVID last year and whose memories are a blessing.

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MEMORIES AND BLESSINGS OF LEADERSHIP

In March 2016, Delegates representing all parts of the Atlantic-Midwest Province gathered together in Rochester, NY to elect provincial leadership for the years 2016–2020. The Leadership Team is elected by our Sisters and is currently composed of a Provincial and five Councilors. As each Councilor was elected, she chose a scripture passage to mark her years of leadership. Each of us carried these words to Installation Day, July 9, 2016, held at Villa Notre Dame in Wilton, CT. There we stood on the altar facing our Sisters, professing our gratitude to our foundress, Mother Theresa Gerhardinger, and to the many women of our congregation who had gone before us, who

learned to trust in God and who dared to risk all for the sake of the mission.

As a newly elected Council, we pledged to continue the work of *Embracing the Future*. We began searching for and implementing alternative living options for our Sisters, initiating creative ways to respond to the urgent needs of our world by engaging our Sisters in implementing our 2017 Directional Statement, *Love Gives Everything*, working with our colleagues and Associates to be carriers of the vision and finding ways to engage our Sisters in the work of the province, always in the context of the congregation.

We were excited, eager, determined and open to the challenges that lay ahead of us, embracing the unknown future and eager to serve the province and to transform the world, remembering that we stand on the shoulders of those who have gone before us. Over the months and years our commitment has not waived.

When the possibility of not having an Election Assembly became a reality due to the raging COVID-19 pandemic, our Council was asked to add another year to our four-year term. Little did we know what this would mean for us and for the province: an outbreak of the virus in two of our retirement centers, resulting in the deaths of many of our Sisters; limited travel; working from home; canceled meetings and donor events; Zoom Assemblies; political, social and racial unrest.

As I look back on the memories of our term as a Council, I give thanks to God for the talent, generosity, openness and enduring commitment of the Council. The years of 2016–2021 were challenging for all of us, yet in the midst of it all each Councilor moved faithfully and willingly from the concrete everyday minutiae to the elusive intangibles of mystery. We moved hurriedly from a finance meeting to accompanying a Sister who had just been placed on comfort care—all within a day's work. Together, we have laughed, cried, argued, grappled with difficult decisions, accepted criticism, received accolades, celebrated birthdays, mourned the loss of our Sisters, witnessed the generosity of our benefactors, and kept long hours to complete the day's work.

During these past five years, the Council has prayed, researched, evaluated, failed, reiterated, listened, observed, watched, grown and learned more than we could ever have imagined. As leaders, we functioned on behalf of our SSND family, and soon, when our term is over, each of us will return to our community as members of our family and as Sisters to one another.

Over these five years in the ministry of leadership, we, as a Council, have been blessed by our province, our congregation, faithful associates, dedicated staff and employees, our sponsored and co-sponsored ministries and our generous benefactors. We are grateful for all you do to support our Sisters and the work of our province. We continue to pray for you and your family and wish you many good memories and an abundance of blessings.

Gratefully in Notre Dame,
Charmaine Krohe, SSND
Provincial Leader



School Sisters
of Notre Dame

Blessings is a publication for family, friends and benefactors of the School Sisters of Notre Dame.

SSNDs in the Atlantic-Midwest Province express their mission of unity through education, which enables persons to reach the fullness of their potential. "Urged by the love of Christ, we choose to express our mission through ministry directed toward education. For us, education means enabling persons to reach the fullness of their potential as individuals created in God's image and assisting them to direct their gifts toward building the earth." (You Are Sent, Constitution of the School Sisters of Notre Dame, C22)

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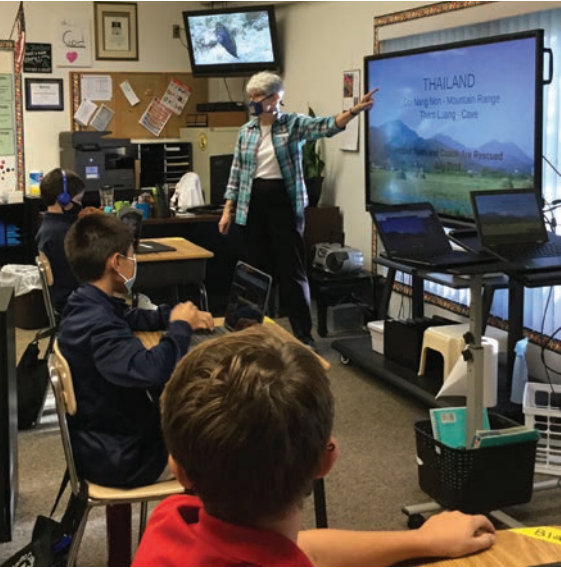
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The School Sisters of Notre Dame are part of an international congregation. They currently minister in 30 countries. "Our internationality challenges us to witness to unity in a divided world; to discover unsuspected ways of sharing what we have, especially with the poor and marginalized; and to search for new channels of service in the international church." YAS, C26



Sister Joan Pikiell was due to take perpetual vows on August 8. However, COVID-19 precautions caused the ceremony to be postponed. Instead, Provincial Leader Sister Charmaine Krohe accepted Sister Joan's vow renewal in a gathering outside of Villa Assumpta on July 19.

Sister Cathy Bonfield was one of the first Sisters to return to classroom teaching, welcoming back her masked and safely distanced students at St. Martha School in Sarasota, Florida on August 17, 2020.



Their Memories Are a *Blessing*

After coming through such a difficult year as 2020 was, memories of those lost and those loved have truly been a blessing to us. We appreciate all who submitted their memories of School Sisters of Notre Dame who have touched their lives in some way. Here are a few of their memories.



How SSNDs Have Touched Lives Throughout Their History

MOTHER SETON ACADEMY LOVES SISTER MARIANNE RODERICK

For many Mother Seton Academy graduates and their families, the first introduction to the School Sisters of Notre Dame was meeting Sister Marianne Roderick, SSND, who for twenty years taught sixth-graders. The subjects she taught included mathematics, science and religion, but she taught more than the academic content.

Each of the homerooms is named for a founder of one of our sponsoring communities. During her time at MSA, Sister Marianne embodied the spirit of Mother Theresa Gerhardinger and introduced her students to Mother Caroline, as well. Instructing the students about Mother Theresa included teaching them a special song in honor of the Foundress. Although the students found the rigor of the academic subjects demanding, they found in Sister Marianne a kind and firm teacher who would prepare them well for future studies. Students would later remark on how Sister prepared them well for future challenges.

One of the most memorable experiences Sister Marianne provided the students was a chance to visit her family farm. The day provided a chance to interact directly with the farm animals and to learn about life on the farm. The students also learned about care of the earth and stewardship of God's gifts.

Sister also made it possible for the students to have other learning experiences by safely driving them by the busload to learning opportunities. Always generous with her time, she readily modeled for the students what it meant to be of service to others.

Sister Marianne's influence extended beyond the students. As new teachers joined the MSA community, they looked to Sister Marianne for guidance on everything from the curriculum to classroom management, to lunch and recess supervision duties. One colleague, Leah Benzing, remembers, "I was blessed to be partnered with Sister Marianne as the sixth-grade teaching team for my first years of teaching. She guided me through the uniqueness of our community as well as the more mundane responsibilities of a classroom teacher. I still hear her voice when feeling challenged or overwhelmed. I then take it one step at a time and make decisions on what is best for our students. She led by example, and I still reflect on it often."

Generous in spirit, committed to service, and kind to struggling students, Sister Marianne has gifted her students and colleagues with memories of a loving, effective teacher.

—Mother Seton Academy, Baltimore, MD

NDP NOSTALGIA

I had never seen a live nun as I walked into Sister Mary Ethelred's homeroom class at Notre Dame Preparatory School (NDP) that first day of school in September 1952. She was clad in black with a sweet round face trimmed in a starched white frame. I was terrified!

I don't remember much about those first days, but I know that I was welcomed by my classmates and that Sister Ethelred was warm and kind. I was raised in the Protestant faith, so I had never been to a Catholic Mass, but I loved the feeling of solemnity and mystery in that chapel.

I remember in Biology class Sister Helen Marie stopped to make the sign of the cross when an ambulance went by, and Sister Mary Carroll drilled vocabulary words into us in English class. I grew to love Notre Dame and my classmates. I loved playing hockey, Gym Meet and watching the nuns walking the campus saying rosary.

Sister Ethelred was transferred to a convent in Canada and wrote me a beautiful note when she heard of my father's death. I shall never forget her thoughtfulness.

— **Ann Schwentker Phillips, NDP Class of 1955**

I am an alumna of the Class of 1960, the last graduating class from the Charles Street campus. I was privileged to be educated by the SSNDs at both The Cathedral School and NDP. I also had a wonderful aunt, Sister Mary Richard Driscoll, SSND, who was a well-loved teacher and principal for many years in the Northeastern province, and always got reports of my progress, especially in elementary school.

At NDP my favorite and most influential Sisters were Sister Paul Mary, a young, energetic beautiful Sister whom we all adored — she was my freshman English teacher; Sister Mary Concepta, whom I had for three years of Spanish and homeroom; Sister Marylita, whom I credit for my ability to breeze through freshman chemistry in college due to her excellent instruction in our senior year; and Sister Ruth Marie, senior homeroom, English teacher and moderator of *The Towers*, where I was co-editor. I also have to mention Sister Madeline Marie, who continued my love for choral music. During senior year the choral club made a recording of Christmas music that I continue to enjoy 65 years later.

My formation as an educated Catholic woman began with the SSNDs, and I have been forever grateful and blessed that my parents were able to send me to schools that gave me such an excellent education, lifetime friends, and appreciation of our faith. — **Bobbie Davis Speace, NDP Class of '60**

I have a "picture cube" still on display in our living room. One of my favorite photos in it is of Sister Sharon Kanis and me on my Graduation day in May 1981. In our bedroom, my husband and I have a favorite photo from our wedding day in 1995. In the photo is Sister Sharon smiling and enjoying herself with friends at the reception.



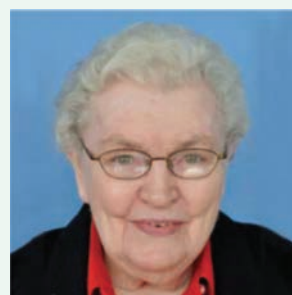
When I went to NDP, I never had Sister Sharon as a teacher. However, her joy and love for God and zest for life radiated from her. All the girls wanted to talk with her, know her, or have her as a retreat leader! Her positivity was contagious. I became involved in liturgy, which had a lasting impact on my faith. Sister Sharon was a huge part of that and always seemed to have time and energy for all of us students.

I was honored that Sister Sharon said yes to the request to sing at my wedding. Her wonderful voice and happiness were shared with all who attended.

In closing, I would like to share one more memory. I was driving on Charles Street during one of my college summer breaks. I glanced over to the convent and saw a most joyful sight: there was Sister Sharon walking along, alone, head back, arms stretched up to the sky, and a huge smile on her face. Thank you Sister Sharon for showing me and SO many girls, how to praise and thank our God.

— **Sharon (Lanzi) Bateman, NDP Class of '81**

I was a relatively young Sister when I arrived at NDP in 1972, slightly intimidated by the idea of teaching high school girls, but it was here that I learned by doing, and gradually I felt at home. I quickly learned that the indescribable color that trimmed the school was custom-made "thimbleberry," particularly created at the request of Sister Mary Virginia Connolly. It took me about six months to distinguish seniors from juniors in my English classes, but by the time I left the school in 1985, I was department chair and in the "senior teacher" category.



Sister Marie Sulpice Walsh (pictured) also arrived in 1972, as Principal of the "lower school," and though we worked with students of different ages, her character had a profound influence on me. Her confidence, professionalism, and integrity inspired and encouraged me as I strove to acquire these same

qualities. Appearing severe and serious, her lovely smile betrayed her innate kindness and concern for others. Most of all, her sense of humor lightened my spirit and kept me sharp. In addition to running the grade 1–8 school, Sister Sulpice's time at NDP was a blessing to many—I remember her encouraging a child who displayed school phobia, acting as "confessor" or counselor to parents, and providing professional and personal support to her faculty and staff.



I have returned to NDP this year as a member of the Board of Trustees. No more thimbleberry here, and the "lower school" I knew is now a thriving "middle level." NDP has grown in size, curriculum, and honors thanks to many of the SSNDs who have contributed their gifts to the school and who have mentored others to embrace the tradition of educating young women to become agents of change for a more just and peaceful world. — **Sister Jane Cayer, SSND**

THE SPIRIT OF IND

I'm a graduate of 1983, but I had many Sisters at IND before me. Sister Virginia Stallings I met in 1971, when I was five. My older sister was a freshman. We were at freshman/junior Mass, and I had a stomach bug. Sister Virginia took me away and was so nice to me. She made me feel better and truly just comforted me. She was so kind. And always my favorite. When I entered IND she told me, "I got your back." — **Dana Pearce Weaver, IND Class of '83**

In the spring of 1971, some (six or so) members of the *WIND* staff took the train to Columbia University in NYC to receive an award we had won. Sister Therese Feeley (my favorite teacher) was the moderator at that time and went with us. We stayed at the Waldorf Astoria. She gave us our school rings on a ferry ride we took. We also took the subway to Astoria (Queens) and my aunt made us a big spaghetti dinner. What a trip!

— **JoAnn Stelmack, IND Class of '72**

I remember that Sister Bernetta (sewing) and I would go round and round because she wanted me to ease the shoulder into the sleeve and I couldn't do it, so I just told her that I liked them pleated! Her teaching me to sew gave me confidence and also helped put food on the table during some rough times in my life. She was absolutely my favorite.

— **Irene Mann, IND Class of '69**

As the written word has evolved from handheld newspapers and books to electronic posts, the roles of editor and proofreader seem to have taken a backseat, sacrificed to journalistic expediency. Whenever I spy errors, my brain conjures up visions of Sister Mary Carola (Himmelheber). Tall, no-nonsense and imposing, she did not suffer fools lightly. I was scared of her in my 1966 English class, but boy did I learn! My first inkling of the depth of education she provided was my placement in a specially-assembled class at Towson University (then known as Towson State College), which allowed me to skip an entire semester of freshman English. Since then I have been reminded daily of how fortunate I was to learn from her as well as from the many SSNDs who dedicated their lives to teaching the young women at the Institute of Notre Dame. — **Kathleen Barker, IND Class of '66**



She is no longer an SSND, but my all-time favorite was Sister Mary Paul Poindexter. She was my journalism teacher junior year. Loved that woman! Petite, graceful, funny and an excellent teacher. I learned so much from her. I was thrilled when she named me a *WIND*ows sports editor for the next year. I owe my love of writing to her. Unfortunately, she was transferred between my junior and senior years. When we won the Medalist medal at the Columbia Newspaper Convention, the entire staff jammed into the phone booth to call and share the honor with her.
—*Dee Walsh, IND Class of '65*

SSND BLESSINGS AT NOTRE DAME OF MARYLAND UNIVERSITY

Kathleen Feeley

With a sparkling smile, sprightly step and halo-like crown of white hair, Sister Kathleen entered my graduate English class and approached the podium. . .She shared her passion for poetry, literature, and writing which continues to profoundly affect me nearly twenty years later."

"I first knew her at NDP, where she was my English teacher, then at NDMU where she was moderator of the college paper and I was page editor. Her creativity, boundless energy, and confidence in our abilities (and those dark, expressive eyebrows!) filled us with enthusiasm and a desire to excel."

Marie Michelle Walsh

"She was kind, funny, sharp, and smart. I hope to be that for my students."

"She became a mentor, a guide, and a moral compass during some confusing and turbulent times in the 1960s...We exchanged news-filled Christmas notes for the next 49 years."

Theresa Lamy

"Sister Theresa literally became part of my family. She and I would cook the meat pies together for the foreign languages lunch and she would tell me stories about her life."

"It was always a pleasure going to French class with Sister Theresa. She inspired me to pursue a second degree in Modern Foreign Languages while I was attending and because of that my first job after graduating was using my language skills."

Marie Xavier Looymans

"She was the embodiment of kindness, compassion, and faith. . . I use what she taught me about education and God every day."

Sister Elise Mary Saydah hired me in 1979, and she remains one of the most important mentors in my career and the careers of so many faculty and staff. Her gentle, yet always professional demeanor set the standard for both her employees and her beloved students. She also taught French, and it kept her so close to the teachers, being in the classroom "trenches" side by side with us. There was a very special camaraderie under her inspiring leadership. Sister was so affirming in terms of building self-confidence within our school community. I remember one Christmas she knew some of the teachers would be unable to spend Christmas at home with their out-of-state families. She invited each of them to the Christmas Eve Mass in the school chapel. Sister Elise Mary was an exemplary person with infinite kindness, patience, wisdom and humility.
— *Carolyn Buck, Faculty*

"I was really blessed by Sister Marie Xavier's teaching! Her enthusiasm was encouraging for me. I will never forget her. I'm still enthusiastic about my teaching now! She was always very thorough and precise in her teaching style."

"Sister Marie Xavier shaped me as a teacher. Thirty-one years later, I still had and used the vowel slides we made in class. She was tough and caring, expecting us to be a model worthy of the admiration young children have for their teacher."

Maria Wittmann

"Sister Maria Wittmann (Mary Amaltrudis) was the hidden heart of every community in which she lived and worked. A house Sister of uncommon intelligence, wisdom, and humanity, she labored with grace and love, preparing countless meals for the Sisters and resident students at the college."

All the SSNDs

"How lucky we all were to have these highly educated and devoted professors in such a perfect setting. They taught us to think and write and observe and appreciate tradition while ever looking forward. I am thankful every day."

"There were so many SSNDs over my 16 years at NDP and NDMU who made me the person I am today; it's impossible to list them all. I can tell you the themes, though, of these incredible educators: social justice role models, creative mentors and caring people. They are all truly a blessing."

"When I think of SSNDs, I think of women of faith, strength, love and peace, vision, wisdom, bravery and gentleness, who shared a good laugh, a joyous moment, a sad time, or a silent prayer with others, who offered a hand, some wise advice, a nudge to get you going. They are women who change lives!"

MEMORIES OF SSNDs AT MADONNA/OUR LADY OF FATIMA, FT. LEE, NJ, 1944–1953

By Margaret Hart

I am ever grateful for the education, example, and friendship of so many School Sisters of Notre Dame. Sister Florentine (Madeline Mary) Linehan was principal when our class hosted a graduation party for the 1952 eighth grade. She led the conga line and the bunny hop!

Following kindergarten through the eighth grade at Madonna, I continued my education with SSND for four years at Academy of the Holy Angels — which would probably add at least 15 more names to the notes shared below.

Kindergarten: S. Ewalda Daimer: She played the violin.

Grade 1: S. Joelita McNamara: Remember penmanship classes.

Grade 2: S. Berlindas (Dolores) Baumgartner: Spring show we sang "Alice Blue Gown."

Grade 3: S. Remberta (Mary Rose) Macrell: She could not participate in recess games because she "had a bone in her knee." She read us a Disney book re: Donald, Daisy and others travelling the U.S. Particularly remember picture of them visiting the Sequoia Forest.

Grade 4: S. Claude Burns: Each country had a color to represent its explorers. After lunch she would come out and throw a handful of hard candy (She played baseball with her brothers!).

Grade 5: S. Norita Reardon: She gave me a prayer card with poem, "Be the Best of Whatever You Are." Went to the 70th anniversary of her profession.

Grade 6: S. Timothy (Mary Ann) Wood: Went to school at Brulators factory in West Fort Lee. Classrooms divided by theater curtains. She later went to Ponce, Puerto Rico.

Grade 7: S. Leo Marie (Helen Mary) Donovan: She sent four boys to the bank to obtain a brand new \$100 bill for our mission donations. She pinned it on the cork board over the blackboard. Every Tuesday at lunch she came out early so we could share the adventures of Lucille Ball from the previous evening. She also went to Ponce.

Grade 8: S. Claudona Connors: She taught at OLF for our year only. She wept at our graduation. I can still see the puddles of teardrops on her bib.



Madonna Catholic School/ Our Lady of Fatima (photo taken in the late 1940s)

FIRST ROW: Sisters Bertran Conroy, Rose de Lima Curtin, Mary Brien, Mary Rose Macrell, Berlindis Baumgartner and Cordine Howard.

SECOND ROW: Sisters Norita Reardon, Edmond Danmeyer, Marilene Hudson, Martin Kelly, Joelita McNamara, Therese Alaimo and Ellene Sheehan.

SISTERS PLAYED A VITAL ROLE IN EDUCATION AT NOTRE DAME ACADEMY

I attended Notre Dame Academy in Waterdown, Ontario for five years as a day student and have fond memories of my time there. The Sisters helped female students to blossom intellectually, emotionally and spiritually. It was a privilege to be taught by such highly educated, strong and devoted women, who also opened my eyes to the important role of Sisters in the Catholic Church and in our communities.

Many of the students that surrounded me came from around the world. Through my time at NDA, I learned about respecting and appreciating diversity and that was a valuable life lesson. As a member of the last Grade 13 class to graduate before the school closed in 1983, I felt I was well prepared to face university and life ahead.

Over the years, students enjoyed the bowling alley, tennis courts, gardens with a beautiful large white statue of Mary, a gazebo and the pond, which was a place where we could sit and read or talk. The school was constructed of beautiful stone, marble and wood. Its chapel was a place for prayer and reflection and, when the Sisters played music and sang there, it was inspirational. I can still hear Sister Barbara masterfully playing the organ. All of the historic group graduation photos hung in a busy hallway, inspiring us to keep going with our studies in order to make it to that wall.



My heartfelt gratitude to the School Sisters of Notre Dame, the lay teachers, the staff, my fellow students, my parents who encouraged me, and Waterdown for being such a warm and welcoming community. Special thanks to Sister Joan Hart, the local archivist, for her dedicated work in bringing alumnae all together (NDA regularly had alumnae events until 2018).

Notre Dame Academy was more than just a building; it was a place that helped many young girls become the women that they are today and gifted them with important core values, a sense of empowerment and with the love of learning.

— Louise-Ann (Pretto) Caravaggio, NDA Class of '83

THE SISTERS OF THE ACADEMY OF OUR LADY, CHICAGO

Sister Michael Ann (sophomore biology) “inspired me most with her teaching methodology. She was organized, thorough, passionate and clear about the content of her teaching. In drama class, **Sister Dominic’s** tough exterior hid a caring core. She was a taskmaster who pushed us to heights we didn’t know we possessed. In French class, **Sister Mathilde’s** teaching methods were both engaging and fun.”

— Liz Hamer O’Connor, Class of '67

Sister Noraleen “was my Orchestra teacher, leader and most caring for four years. I started in Chorus. Sister Noraleen pulled me out and gave me a clarinet. She took me under her wing, gave me the confidence to do something I loved and wanted to do but felt I couldn’t. I grew under her tutelage. She definitely encouraged my “tiny but mighty” attitude!”

— Barbara Brady Crotty, Class of '64

Sister Charlette “displayed a dramatic flair for literature, particularly Shakespeare, and Sister Francele, **Longwood News** newspaper moderator, had a wry and witty sense of humor.”

— Marge Carroll, Class of '54



Sister Margaret Ann: “The Queen of *Anna Karenina*...I’ll never forget her for that. I have it saved on my TV...w/ Vivien Leigh in the starring role.”

— Seller “Cookie” Burnett Gill, Class of '72

“She was creative, asked great questions, made us think. AND she had a sense of

humor. She encouraged everyone to give their book reports in ways that showed their talents. Never a dull moment in her classes.”

— Mary T. Burke, Class of '72

HAPPINESS AND HAIR CUTS

About two years ago, with most of my children out of the house, I found myself with more time to volunteer. I read in our church bulletin that the SSNDs at Villa Assumpta were looking for volunteers. I live nearby and I thought what a wonderful way to give back to the Sisters who taught and supported me both at Notre Dame Preparatory School and the College of Notre Dame (now Notre Dame of Maryland University). When I was growing up, we always called Villa Assumpta the Motherhouse. That’s what my mother taught me, so I continue to refer to it as the Motherhouse.

I contacted the coordinator and was assigned the job of ensuring the Sisters were able to get to and from the Cut and Curl (hairstylist) safely for their appointments on Saturday mornings. What a joyful experience it turned out to be! I connected with my former World Cultures teacher from NDP, Sister Joannene Meredino. She was still full of spunk and had humorous stories to share. I met Sister Kenneth “Cass” Marie Botta, who loved all sports, and we’d catch up on the Ravens and Orioles. She would always point to her picture of Jesus on her wall and say, “He’s what it’s all about.” I would walk Sister Rosemary Dilli down for her hair appointments, and she would do little dances along the way. Sister Loretta, Sister Betty, Sister Pat, Sister Corrine and so many others were such



delightful, caring and spunky Sisters, holding on to their daily prayers, memories and activities to keep their aging minds and bodies engaged. Sadly, last March I had to stop my work at the Motherhouse due to COVID. I understand many of these Sisters have passed over this last year, and I pray for them and all of the Sisters who have devoted their lives to teaching and serving so many. Thank you for allowing me to share.

—Helen Aberle, Villa Assumpta volunteer

HOW SSNDs FORMED MY UNDERSTANDING AND PRACTICE OF LEADERSHIP

By Yvonne Debruin, Director of Ministry Services

Long before I began employment with the Atlantic-Midwest Province, I met SSNDs in three different ministry and residential settings through two previous employers and a friend. What initially drew me was their deep care and concern for people in a rural setting. The first Sister saw the potential in others, especially women, empowering them to build up the parish. In a second instance, I learned about their living in community and in a third example about giving one’s life to the causes of Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation through education, networking and advocacy.

Later, joining SSND as a province staff member and having read the SSND Constitution *You Are Sent*, I could see how the Sisters I met before lived out YAS. Serving now alongside SSNDs in different roles and functions in a formal way, I witnessed and absorbed particulars of the SSND charism and culture. Over time, my consciousness to the charism of unity was awakened, what it means and how it needs to affect every aspect of ministry, including administrative tasks, programming, relationship building and seeing everything as part of a larger whole.

My use of language became more intentional and refined with the specific SSND approach to mission and ministry. One example is the value of ‘communion in mission.’ The more cultural use of the term ‘team spirit’ falls flat in the face of ‘communion in mission.’ The language used sets a mission-based workplace apart from a business or secular non-profit. As a leader, more is required of me, seeking ‘communion in mission’ versus just building team spirit. It goes deeper and is meant to endure.

Lastly, ‘every person counts.’ Whether it is a student, clients served, a trafficked person, leaders, staff and faculty in SSND ministry, co-workers, all the Sisters, board members, donors, Associates, people on the margins of society and those experiencing injustices - everybody counts. But not only persons, also all of creation. Moving daily in such an environment forms and roots my disposition for mission-based work and supports meaning-making in uncertain times. It is a daily reminder of ‘who’ I am and ‘whose’ I am, and to lead in the SSND spirit from that place.

Jubilarians 2021

DIAMOND & PEARL (80 YEARS)

S. Cabrini Ganz

S. Mary Xavier Linz †

S. Mary Rosalita McNamee †

S. Katharine Reiter

S. Marie Dolores Schneggenburger †

S. Mary Aveline Smith

S. Rita White

GOLD, RUBY & DIAMOND (75 YEARS)

S. M. Zita Gilles †

S. Joellyn Grandchamp

S. Jean Hartleib

S. Marie Louise Koenig †

S. Rosalie Reitzel

S. Mary Elizabeth Sharp †

S. Mary Raymunda Smith †

S. Mildred Straus

S. Mary Adria Turrill

GOLD & RUBY (70 YEARS)

S. Julice Bots

S. Cor Marie Cielocha

S. Rosemary Dilli †

S. Joan Dineen †

S. Kathleen Marie Engers

S. Ellen Fitzsimmons

S. Joseph Marie Gartner †

S. Corinne Alice Gmuier †

S. Martin de Porres "Marty" Kimpel

S. Betty Lackenbauer

S. Blanche Leising

S. Florence Leising

S. Ann Mary Moles

S. Beatrice Pavlica

S. Mary Patricia Shea

DIAMOND (60 YEARS)

S. Catherine Arata

S. Kathleen Boland

S. Miriam Bruder

S. Mary Jeanne Davidson

S. Mary Vincenza Gagliostro †

S. Mary Francita Hobbs

S. Katherine Maureen Kinnally

S. Mary Louise Kvech

S. Mary Lynch

S. Rea McDonnell

S. Robert Marie Moser

S. Virginia Muller

S. Christina Murphy

S. Mary Aloysius Norman

S. Loretta Marie Rosendale †

S. Mary Ian Stewart

S. Carole Tabano

S. Dorothy Marie Young

GOLD (50 YEARS)

S. Kathleen Jancuk

RUBY (40 YEARS)

S. Theresa Nagle

SILVER (25 YEARS)

S. Jane Forni

† Eternal Life

Jubilarian Memories

Kathleen Marie Engers, 70-Year Jubilarian

Sister Mary Fitzgerald asked for memories of Sister Kathleen Marie Engers, who taught at Notre Dame of Maryland University for 62 years and is celebrating 70 years as a School Sister of Notre Dame. Here are some of the responses she received.



"Sister Kathleen Marie Engers was the first to give me a tour of NDMU as a high school senior, sending me a thank you note after. A note I still have to this day. She was with me from start to finish of my college career as my

advisor. I'm thankful we stay in touch and remain close to this day. She taught me so much about life and love."

"I owe many of my skills in diction and elocution to her tutelage. She was a fervent supporter of the theater programs offered at NDMU and was always working to make us stronger speakers. She was a treasure!"

"I tried to skip her Oral Communications class. I was up all night finishing my video project. She sent someone to Meletia Hall to get me. She said I could not shirk my duties to her class just because I deemed it less important. #LifeLessonLearned."

"Sister Kathleen Marie once made me give my speech in Oral Communication while another student sobbed uncontrollably. I am now an unflappable public speaker. The other student learned her fear of public speaking would not kill her. She gave a tear-free speech next class. #LifeLessons."

Loretta Rosendale, SSND, 50-Year Jubilee



Is a blessing measured by time served, accomplishments reached, lives touched, love given or giving oneself for the sake of others?

When told of a need and asked if she could/would respond to that need, Sister Loretta Rosendale

packed her bags, said goodbye to a closely knit family, SSND friends and her beloved Ravens, left Baltimore and headed for Chicago as Executive Director of Corazón a Corazón. Corazón, rich in approach to ministry and care for Latinos but poor in financial stability, welcomed her and her contagious joy. Undaunted by the challenges ahead, including part-time employees, the need to raise funds, and knowing no one in Chicago, Sister Loretta set to work. Her creative mind was sometimes ahead of her words (often to the consternation of those listening), but she always thought of what could be or what would be

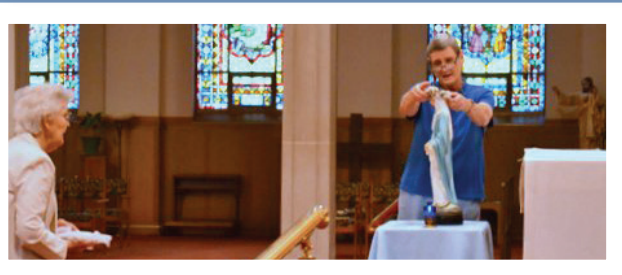
best for those she served. "She did a great job getting funds and creatively using them, hiring a Youth Director and starting a new Summer Program," recalls Sister Rose Cecile Espinos, former Executive Director.

Those who knew her well knew Loretta's heart. "Her concern for the poor was a real priority; her outreach so genuine," says Sister Dorothy Young, an SSND classmate of Loretta, about what Loretta lived at Corazón.

Sister Loretta came to Corazón in 2011 and returned to Baltimore in 2016 due to the demons of dementia beginning to make pathways into her creative mind. Loretta died October 20, 2020, after having tested positive for COVID. She would have been a Jubilarian this year.

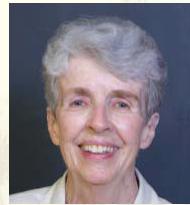
Sister Loretta stood on the shoulders of many SSNDs, paving the way for others in this sponsored ministry as leaders, board members and volunteers. Corazón a Corazón, Heart to Heart, core of our SSND ministry, blessed abundantly by Sister Loretta. —*Sister Miriam Patrick Cummings, Director, Corazón a Corazón*

The Year in Photos

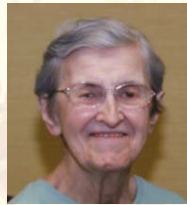


In Memoriam

July 2020 – April 2021



Iris Ann Ledden
7/18/2020



Joanna Brigan
8/7/2020



Joan Dineen
9/18/2020



Victoria (Vicky) Kessler
10/19/2020



Maryann Sheehan
11/1/2020



Mary John Zielinski
11/29/2020



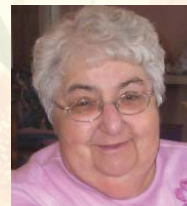
Patricia Ann Warnick
1/13/21



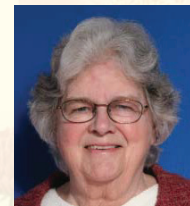
Maureen Michael Byrne
3/23/21



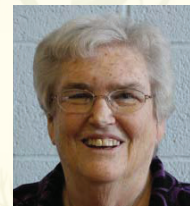
Jenny VandenBergh
7/20/2020



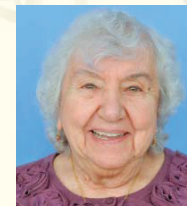
Gertrude (Gertie) Huber
8/23/2020



Kathleen Anne (Kitty) Malstrom
9/25/2020



Loretta Rosendale
10/20/2020



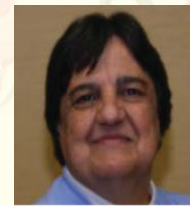
Mary Joannene Merendino
11/2/2020



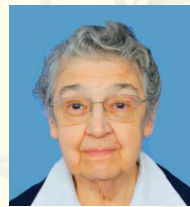
Gloria Rosales
12/4/2020



Eleanor Olinski
1/24/21



Barbara Ann Perry
3/31/21



Clara Beall
7/23/2020



Corrine Gmuer
8/24/2020



Kathleen Groves
9/28/2020



Kenneth Marie (Cass) Botta
10/21/2020



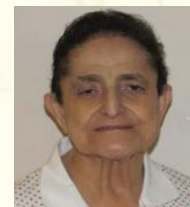
Marie Louise Koenig
11/4/2020



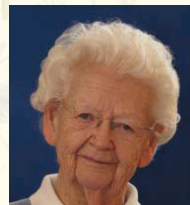
Patricia Ostlick
12/6/2020



Claire LoMaglio
1/24/21



Vincenza Gagliostro
4/3/21



Rosalita McNamee
7/24/2020



Marie Denise Murphy
8/30/2020



Dolores Marie Todd
10/7/2020



Anita Safran
10/28/2020



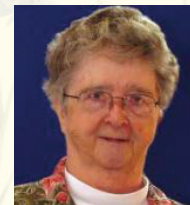
Yvonne Nadeau
11/12/2020



Elizabeth (Betty) Sokel
12/6/2020



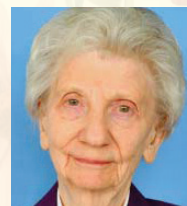
Mary McGrory
2/22/21



Helen Mary Dolan
4/6/21



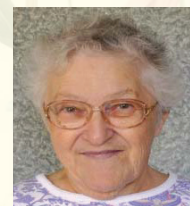
Jean Francis Stenger
7/27/2020



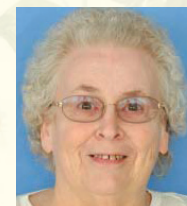
Rosemary Dilli
9/9/2020



Marie Xavier Linz
10/14/2020



Trinitas Bochini
10/29/2020



Joan Gluth
11/27/2020



Mary Zita Gilles
12/11/2020



Grace D'Amico
2/27/21

WAYS OF GIVING AND OTHER DEVELOPMENT NEWS

Tribute Gifts are a great way to remember or recognize someone special. At the School Sisters of Notre Dame (SSND), there are several ways in which to give a gift “In Memory of” or “In Honor of” that someone special while at the same time supporting the SSND and its mission. These include:

APPEALS

Donating to one or all of our three annual appeals (Lenten, Fall, Christmas) is a wonderful way to remember or honor someone special. The current appeal and how to donate may be found on our website <https://atlanticmidwest.org/post/become-donor>.

SSND CARD PROGRAM

Our card program offers you the convenience of having greeting cards on hand when needed. Send a greeting to friends and family with a SSND greeting card while making a gift to the School Sisters of Notre Dame Atlantic-Midwest Province. The Sisters pray daily for donors and for special intentions. memorial, birthday, get well and thank you cards are available. Visit our website at <https://atlanticmidwest.org/posts/ssnd-card-program>.

PLANNED GIVING

Bequests and other Estate plans enable the School Sisters of Notre Dame to continue its mission into the future and may even provide valuable benefits to you and your family. More information on planned giving may be found on our website at <https://atlanticmidwest.org/plannedgiving.org>. Popular planned giving gifts include the following:

BEQUESTS are charitable gifts made through a Will or Revocable Trust. They are attractive gift plans because they cost nothing during your lifetime, provide meaningful support to the School Sisters of Notre Dame, and are revocable until your passing.

BENEFICIARY DESIGNATIONS to the School Sisters of Notre Dame are simple, easy to arrange, and may be revoked at any time prior to your passing. This gift is typically funded with one or more of the following assets:

- Retirement plans
- Insurance policies
- Bank accounts
- Stock brokerage accounts

BLENDED GIFTS are a combination of an immediate gift and a planned gift. Examples include:

- Immediate gift + bequest
- Gift of stock + charitable trust
- IRA tax-free transfer + beneficiary designation

LIFE INCOME PLANS provide immediate tax savings as well as a fixed or variable income stream to one or more beneficiaries. An example of this type of plan is:

- Charitable Remainder Trusts

If you are interested in any of the above ways in which to give, please contact:

**School Sisters of Notre Dame
Development Office
6401 N. Charles St.
Baltimore, MD 21212
Telephone: 800.993.7763.**

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Volunteer



CONNECT WITH OUR SISTERS

Our Sisters love to hear from friends and families, especially during trying times when they may not be able to see you in person. Would you like to connect with one or more Sisters? Please go to <https://atlanticmidwest.org/webform/send-sister-message> to send your personal messages.

PROVINCE JOURNEYS

Did you receive the latest installment of our email newsletter? If you did not and would like to, please email Development Coordinator Jamie Shannon: jshannon@amssnd.org.



OKTOBERFEST 2021!

Kee an eye out this summer for information about our annual Oktoberfest raffle. Visit our website (amssnd.org) starting in July for more information.

We are asking for your continued support because you are a vital collaborator in our ministries. Please continue to partner with us in our mission.

If you would like to personally discuss your gift options, please contact our Development Director, Laura Lang, at **377-7774 x1154** or llang@amssnd.org



Blessings magazine is printed on recycled paper to reflect the School Sisters of Notre Dame's commitment "educate, advocate and act in collaboration with others for the dignity of life and the care of all creation." *Love Gives Everything*, Directional Statement of the 24th General Chapter, 2017



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Atlantic-Midwest Province

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Search for a Sister

Wondering what happened to the wonderful SSNDs who were such a big part of your early education? We may have an answer. The North American SSND Archives invite you to search for Sisters at **ssnd.org/search-for-a-sister**

Send your SSND-related news to **communications@amssnd.org**



www.amssnd.org

